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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 877
By Ridgeway

A RESOLUTION to recognize the Renaissance Center in Dickson.

WHEREAS, the Tennessee General Assembly is pleased to specially recognize and commend those exemplary academic institutions and their superlative educational programs which have made significant contributions for the development of our youth; and

WHEREAS, the Renaissance Center and its founder and benefactor, the Jackson Foundation, are most assuredly two such remarkable educational institutions deserving of special praise and commendation; and

WHEREAS, the Renaissance Center is a state-of-the-art facility that utilizes the latest technology and boasts a variety of educational programs and initiatives; and

WHEREAS, located in Dickson, the Renaissance Center opened in the fall of 1999 and is a wonderful example of how private and public sponsorship can work together; and

WHEREAS, the Center is a place where old and young alike can experience a "renaissance" of learning and self-awareness in an environment that encourages excellence and rewards creativity by offering instructional programs and activities for children and adults in

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Fine Arts, Computers, Multimedia, Learning Lab, College Courses, and Computer Animation; and

WHEREAS, the Center is also a venue for cultural and entertainment events for the public, and houses the CyberSphere 3-D Theatre, the Performing Arts Theatre, the Science Theatre, the Virtually Unlimited Bookstore, the CyberCafe, and the Renaissance Fine Arts Gallery; and

WHEREAS, the Renaissance Center offers a variety of programs, including a variety of low-cost field trips that are available to schools in Middle Tennessee; field trip selections include music, art, and computer classes, as well as CyberSphere shows, theatrical performances, and Faraday Science Theatre programs geared toward each age group; and

WHEREAS, the Center also offers a number of unique courses that range from basic music instruction, including voice, guitar, piano, and violin, to highly advanced computer animation and television editing courses that can be found in only a limited number of facilities in the world; there are also classes in several forms of art, drama, and dance, in addition to courses in some of the most innovative business software programs available; and

WHEREAS, offering much more than educational programs, the Renaissance Center is a venue for cultural and entertainment events for the public as well as an educational institute. The Center contains a performance hall that is host to a variety of theatrical and music programs that includes recitals by some of the faculty and students, in addition to performances by professional community theaters and musical groups such as the Nashville Symphony; and

WHEREAS, the Center is an excellent meeting place with boardrooms, classrooms, the Performance Hall, and lecture halls equipped with computers and teleconferencing available for use by community and non-profit groups; and

WHEREAS, this year, the Renaissance Center became the point of origination for Intermedia's Local Access Cable Television Channel, which broadcasts local programs to more

than 8000 cable subscribers and produces 30 hours of programming a week, featuring art and music instruction, medical advice, public affairs discussion, and more; and

WHEREAS, during its brief existence, the progressive Center has already been recognized for its beautiful architecture and won a state infrastructure award for its designers; and

WHEREAS, even though the Center has been in operation a short time, ambitious future plans are already in the planning stages to include working with the Tennessee Board of Regents and the University of Tennessee to develop a "Virtual University", where students will be able to take college courses and earn degrees through distance education, teleconferencing, and the Internet; and

WHEREAS, beginning this summer, the Center will offer two camps for children of all ages; and

WHEREAS, institutions such as the Renaissance Center inspire all of us to imagine a better future and to create a better world by encouraging excellence in its students; and

WHEREAS, the Renaissance Center was designed and developed by the Jackson Foundation, which is a non-profit corporation founded on July 7, 1995, and carries the names of three brothers who founded the Goodlark Regional Medical Center in 1958—Doctors L.C., William, and Jimmy Jackson. The Foundation operates under the mission of motivating and educating children and adults through the use of technology in the area of arts, sciences, and humanities. Today, the Jackson Foundation is capably run under the astute leadership of the president/executive director, State Representative Douglas Jackson; and

WHEREAS, the good people of the greater Dickson community have long recognized and appreciated the Jackson Foundation staff's excellence as visionary educators; and

WHEREAS, the Renaissance Center and the Jackson Foundation are the perfect examples of institutions totally committed to quality education and the highest ideals of public service and should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we hereby honor and commend the Renaissance Center and the Jackson Foundation for their inspirational pursuit of educational excellence, applaud the administrators, educators, parents, and students associated with these institutions for keeping pace with an ever-changing world, and extend to them our best wishes for every continued success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.